

News Release

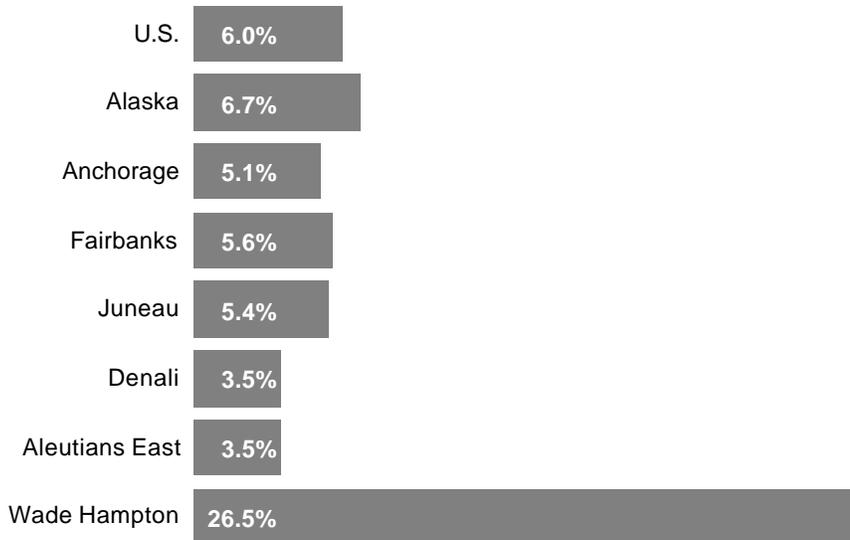
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September 19, 2003
No. 04-08

Unemployment Down Slightly in August

August Unemployment for Selected Areas



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section
All rates not seasonally adjusted

(Detailed table on reverse)

Alaska Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

	preliminary 08/03	revised 07/03	08/02	Changes from	
				07/03	08/02
Total Nonfarm Employment	319,600	319,500	317,800	100	1,800
Natural Resources & Mining	10,200	10,300	11,300	-100	-1,100
Construction	20,200	19,600	19,700	600	500
Manufacturing	16,800	17,900	16,900	-1,100	-100
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	65,000	65,000	65,900	0	-900
Information	7,200	7,300	7,300	-100	-100
Financial Activities	14,700	14,400	14,300	300	400
Professional & Business Services	25,800	25,400	26,000	400	-200
Education & Health Services	32,500	32,200	30,700	300	1,800
Leisure & Hospitality	35,300	35,700	34,800	-400	500
Other Services	13,100	13,000	12,800	100	300
Government	78,900	78,700	78,000	200	900

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities.
Benchmark date: March 2002
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate

August 2003:	Alaska 8.0%	U.S. 6.1%
July 2003:	Alaska 7.9%	U.S. 6.2%
August 2002:	Alaska 8.2%	U.S. 5.8%

Alaska's unemployment rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point in August to 6.7 percent. The comparable national rate (not seasonally adjusted) fell three-tenths of a percentage point to 6.0 percent.

According to Dan Robinson, a labor economist with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the August unemployment data conform to a long-running pattern. "For more than twenty-five years Alaska has always recorded a decline in unemployment from July to August," Robinson said. "Despite Alaska's heavily seasonal labor market, which can show big monthly swings, certain annual patterns have held remarkably constant."

Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau all recorded slightly lower rates in August. The Denali Borough and the Aleutians East Borough shared the state's lowest rate of 3.5 percent. At the other end of the spectrum, the Wade Hampton Census Area had August's highest rate at 26.5 percent.

August estimates of wage and salary employment show a slight over-the-month increase of 100 jobs. At 319,600, the state had approximately 1,800 more jobs in August of this year than it did in August 2002, and appears well on its way to a sixteenth consecutive year of job growth.

Jobs lost in the oil industry roughly equal jobs added in health care and social services. The construction industry is still showing growth, although at a slower rate than in recent months. Jobs in the Leisure & Hospitality sector of the economy (hotels, restaurants, etc.) have also increased. More than a third of the approximately 900 new government jobs are attributable to federalized airport security positions.

URL Address: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

Contact: Dan Robinson (907) 465-6036

Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	08/03	07/03	08/02	08/03	07/03	08/02	08/03	07/03	08/02	08/03	07/03	08/02
Alaska Statewide	352,190	357,693	330,751	23,732	24,545	22,557	6.7	6.9	6.8	328,458	333,148	308,194
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	191,500	193,091	177,474	10,727	11,058	10,105	5.6	5.7	5.7	180,773	182,033	167,369
Municipality of Anchorage	155,644	155,827	145,919	8,013	8,101	7,507	5.1	5.2	5.1	147,631	147,726	138,412
Mat-Su Borough	35,856	37,264	31,555	2,714	2,957	2,598	7.6	7.9	8.2	33,142	34,307	28,957
Gulf Coast Region	37,375	38,356	36,128	3,144	3,195	3,251	8.4	8.3	9.0	34,231	35,161	32,877
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,622	25,370	23,601	2,285	2,426	2,148	9.3	9.6	9.1	22,337	22,944	21,453
Kodiak Island Borough	7,280	7,417	7,203	486	438	677	6.7	5.9	9.4	6,794	6,979	6,526
Valdez-Cordova CA	5,473	5,569	5,324	373	331	426	6.8	5.9	8.0	5,100	5,238	4,898
Interior Region	53,906	55,135	51,055	3,274	3,478	3,184	6.1	6.3	6.2	50,632	51,657	47,871
Denali Borough	1,223	1,249	1,170	43	46	55	3.5	3.7	4.7	1,180	1,203	1,115
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	47,543	48,634	44,952	2,659	2,841	2,515	5.6	5.8	5.6	44,884	45,793	42,437
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,725	2,775	2,611	236	235	258	8.7	8.5	9.9	2,489	2,540	2,353
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	2,416	2,477	2,322	337	356	357	13.9	14.4	15.4	2,079	2,121	1,965
Northern Region	9,222	9,249	8,944	1,635	1,643	1,368	17.7	17.8	15.3	7,587	7,606	7,576
Nome Census Area	3,386	3,404	3,226	565	575	409	16.7	16.9	12.7	2,821	2,829	2,817
North Slope Borough	3,439	3,381	3,349	567	502	481	16.5	14.8	14.4	2,872	2,879	2,868
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,395	2,465	2,369	502	567	478	21.0	23.0	20.2	1,893	1,898	1,891
Southeast Region	42,711	43,254	40,827	2,623	2,761	2,554	6.1	6.4	6.3	40,088	40,493	38,273
Haines Borough	1,336	1,353	1,278	97	101	95	7.3	7.5	7.4	1,239	1,252	1,183
Juneau Borough	19,064	19,278	18,137	1,021	1,053	911	5.4	5.5	5.0	18,043	18,225	17,226
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,022	8,165	7,860	475	541	654	5.9	6.6	8.3	7,547	7,624	7,206
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	3,019	3,038	2,852	352	344	306	11.7	11.3	10.7	2,667	2,694	2,546
Sitka Borough	5,014	5,061	4,755	247	246	204	4.9	4.9	4.3	4,767	4,815	4,551
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,235	2,267	2,107	155	166	121	6.9	7.3	5.7	2,080	2,101	1,986
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,680	3,738	3,517	246	269	238	6.7	7.2	6.8	3,434	3,469	3,279
Yakutat Borough	342	356	323	31	42	26	9.1	11.8	8.0	311	314	297
Southwest Region	17,475	18,608	16,322	2,329	2,410	2,095	13.3	13.0	12.8	15,146	16,198	14,227
Aleutians East Borough	1,875	2,002	1,747	66	68	48	3.5	3.4	2.7	1,809	1,934	1,699
Aleutians West Census Area	2,821	3,047	2,693	182	224	214	6.5	7.4	7.9	2,639	2,823	2,479
Bethel Census Area	6,936	7,361	6,403	1,064	1,081	888	15.3	14.7	13.9	5,872	6,280	5,515
Bristol Bay Borough	569	606	537	50	51	50	8.8	8.4	9.3	519	555	487
Dillingham Census Area	2,041	2,159	1,942	207	198	219	10.1	9.2	11.3	1,834	1,961	1,723
Lake & Peninsula Borough	611	656	598	64	71	85	10.5	10.8	14.2	547	585	513
Wade Hampton CA	2,623	2,779	2,401	696	718	591	26.5	25.8	24.6	1,927	2,061	1,810

Benchmark: March 2002

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. • Comparisons between different time periods are not as

meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. • The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.